

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Date (month / year): June 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

62-0-11-0

Hanover

HNS.222

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):

Address: 636 Indian Head Street

Historic Name: John Lyons and Catherine
Schooley House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1850

Source: White's History, Plan No. 6, Page 117

Style/Form: No Style

Architect/Builder: Joseph S. Loring

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Aluminum Clapboard/Aluminum

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Two-car garage to north of house, garden shed to east of house, barn/shed to southeast of house, wood rail fencing and flagpole at front entrance

Major Alterations (with dates): Shed roofed addition to east façade and gable-end addition to southeast of house, and aluminum siding and windows

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒

yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 7.93 Acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to early twentieth century developments on substantial lots which includes grass lawns, numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two-story, gable-end style house has two large additions to the east and south of the house which appear relocated the front entrance of the building. The house has asphalt shingled roofs which have narrow eaves along the gable facades and project out over the gable-end pediments. The eaves, soffits and short returns at the lower edges of the pediment are all aluminum clad and the buildings are all sided with aluminum clapboards. The double hung windows are primarily six-over-six aluminum replacement windows. These windows also have decorative aluminum shutters installed on the siding to either side of the window frames. The original chimneys have been removed from the building and a larger exterior brick chimney with a narrow corbeled top is now installed on the north façade.

The house faces west towards the road and while the front entrance would presumably have been located in the main two-story gable-end section of the house, it is now located in a later addition to the southeast. A single window is located in its gable-end with two windows on each floor below. However, while the windows on the second floor are evenly spaced across the façade, the windows on the first floor are not. The righthand window appears to have been relocated to the center of the façade, suggesting a change in the design of the façade which may indicate where the original entrance had been located. On the north façade of the house, two large dormers with shallow shed roofs extend from the roof ridge past the center of the façade. Each dormer has a double hung window in its north façade but no shutters. Below, two windows are located on each floor to the right of the chimney. At the northeast corner of the original building, a tall, two-story shed roofed addition projects out over the lower corner of the gable roof. This addition extends across the width of the east façade and to the south of the house. A large double hung window is visible on the second floor of its north façade, with a pair of smaller windows visible on the first floor.

On the south façade of the house, three large double hung windows line the second floor. A single double hung window is located in the southwest corner of the first floor. The southeast corner of the façade is partially covered by a long, low shed roofed porch that spans the west façade of the additions. This porch is enclosed adjacent to the original house with tall single pane windows topped with rectangular transoms. Two of these windows are located on the south façade of the original house, with four more lining the west façade of the porch along the shed roofed addition to the east façade. The porch opens up in front of the addition to the far southeast end of the house, which is a lower, one-and-half story gable-end roofed addition. This addition has slightly narrower projecting eaves around its gable end but is otherwise similarly detailed to the original house. The open porch extends across its first floor and is supported by square wood posts with tall wood railings and square balusters. A solid wood door is located at the center of this porch, with a double hung window to either side. A long brick walkway with a granite border leads from the sidewalk to this entrance. On the façade above, a single window is located in the shed roofed addition and two are located in the gable-end above the open porch. The south façade of this addition has two double hung windows on the first floor and a row of large fixed windows in the partially exposed basement level.

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The property is open field and grass lawn with mature trees along the north and south property lines and dense vegetation to the east. A low fieldstone wall borders the sidewalk to the south of the house and a basketball court is visible in the far southeast corner of the lawn. Where the fieldstone ends, a cement block retaining wall runs from the street east to the southeast corner of the last addition. A second, similar retaining wall is visible to the rear of this addition as well. A two rail wood fence encloses the area in front of the house and surrounds the front walkway. To the north of the house, a semicircular asphalt paved driveway provides access to the north of the house. The garage appears to be a mid-twentieth century addition to the site and has a gable-end roof with aluminum clapboard siding and a large, two-car overhead garage door at the center of its west façade. A line of evergreens and mature trees partially screens the garage and parking area from the street. To the south and east of the house are two small sheds. The first is a wood board shed with an overhanging gable roof that is set back in to the trees to the east of the house. The second is more prominent and is a wood shingled gable roofed structure with a large two part door at its center and small, shutter clad windows to either side. This may have been a small barn or horse stall, and a small cupola sits at the center of its roof. A section of yard is enclosed in unpainted wood rail fencing in front of this shed.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The house first appears on the 1856 Walling Atlas as being owned by J. Lyons. According to White's History of Hanson, this house was a small one built in 1850 for John Lyons by Joseph S. Loring (1811-1896), a well-known carpenter in Hanson who would have built this house while in his late thirties. John (1831-1863) Lyons was an Irish shoemaker who had married Catharine Farrell (1825-1900), also born in Ireland, on July 4, 1851 according to the Massachusetts Marriage Records. According to the 1860 U.S. Census, the Lyons lived there with their four children and John's mother-in-law, Roseanna. They share the same neighbors on the 1860 U.S. Census as those shown on the 1856 Walling Atlas and 1879 Walker Atlas, namely Barnabas Everson, the Estes, and the Alms House.

According to White, the property was known for many years as the "Sculley Place." The 1879 Walker Atlas shows Mrs. C. Schooley as the owner. Private John Lyons had enlisted in 1862 in Company B, Massachusetts 3rd Cavalry Regiment and died the following year in the Regimental Hospital in Baton Rouge, LA.¹ In 1865, Catherine Lyons remarried this time to another Irish shoemaker, Michael Schooley (1842-1871) and became Catherine Schooley. Michael Schooley unfortunately died six years later on July 31, 1871. The 1903 Richards Atlas later shows "Jas. Lyons" as the owner. This would appear to be James Lyons (1852-1913), Catherine and John's eldest son. White states that over time the original small structure was enlarged and improved. By 1903, the home has its current zig-zag shape and the 1903 Richards Atlas shows a barn, stable, or ice house next to the wood building. Little additional information is available about James A. Lyons in the intervening years. He and his wife, Ellen M. Lyons (1856-1905), next appear on the 1900 U.S. Census as living on Savin Hill Street in Boston where James was working as a trader. At his death in 1913, James was buried in Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline with a substantial "Lyons" family monument. His mother, Katherine Schooley, is also buried there as are his wife and children.

After James' death on May 29, 1913, 636 Indian Head Street passed to his eldest daughter, Mary C.T. Sullivan (1879-1955), wife of John T. Sullivan (1873-1943). According to the 1910 U.S. Census, John worked as a general practice physician at the time and the couple lived at 324 Ashmont Street in Dorchester with their seven children and two maids. After Mary's death in 1955, the house passed to her eldest daughter, Anna J. Lyons (1905-1987), wife of Francis X. Lyons (1904 - 1985). Before getting married, the 1930 U.S. Census shows that Anna worked as a clerk at the State House. Francis was a public school teacher in Boston in the 1940 Census, and he and Anna, as well as their daughters Mary and Anne M., continued to live in Boston even after they acquired the Hanson house. Francis and Anna J. Lyons sold the property in 1968 to their daughter, now Mary

¹ Obituary at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/176571324/john-lyons>

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Norton, and her husband, Joseph Norton of Milton. Mary and Joseph owned the property until 2004, when they sold the home to their daughter, Patricia Keane.² Patricia Keane is the current owner of the house, which has remained in the same family's hands since its construction.

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² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 28456, Page 203; Book 45480, Page 348-50